2018-2019 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Foodborne Outbreak & Emergency Response Committee
*Chair:  Alida Sorenson, RRT Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Chair: Karen Blickenstaff, Response Staff Director Lead, FDA CORE

Charge 1: Track efforts of NoroCORE, CIFOR, InFORM, FoodNet, and EHS-Net and report these efforts to the AFDO Board. Send topics of interest to AFDO members to the AFDO staff for inclusion in eNews.

Discussion: This charge was on our standing agenda items for committee meetings – all participants were encouraged to bring “hot topics” to committee meetings and/or share via email with committee co-chairs. Co-chairs did not receive any “hot topics” from committee members during the 2018-19 committee year.

Recommendations: More guidance from AFDO leadership on the types of updates that would be of greatest interest could be helpful. We still feel that this is a useful charge that should be continued into the 2019-2020 committee year.

Executive Committee Action: Approval ☒ Disapproval ☐ Date 6/17/2019

Charge 2: During major multistate outbreaks, look for opportunities to provide talking points to state and local program managers on the outbreak.

Discussion: The committee leadership had suggested forming a subcommittee to work on a best practices document for communicating with state and local program managers. However, the subcommittee had just one volunteer and many committee members expressed doubt over the usefulness of creating a best practices document, as there are already communication guidance developed (e.g. RRT Best Practices Manual).

Recommendations: If AFDO leadership has other expectations for this charge beyond creating some sort of best practices document, please share/clarify the charge. Otherwise, the committee would suggest removing this charge for the 2019-2020 committee year.

Executive Committee Action: Approval ☒ Disapproval ☐ Date 6/17/2019

Charge 3: Seek out ways to collaborate and share information across the many projects and groups working on foodborne illness investigation and prevention related projects including minimizing duplication between groups.

Discussion: This charge is quite ambiguous, which has made it difficult to start to tackle it or measure progress.

Recommendations: The committee would suggest removing the charge or identifying a more specific, measurable, and attainable goal.

Executive Committee Action: Approval ☒ Disapproval ☐ Date 6/17/2019

Charge 4: Coordinate regional webinars with the Food Safety Centers of Excellence for the States.

Discussion: The committee has elected to not focus on the CoE charge this year. Committee leadership has not received any guidance from AFDO leadership on the charge. The question asked on the March committee report

*Responsible for submission of reports
and still remains: Is the charge asking the committee to develop regional webinars jointly with CoEs or simply share CoE webinars with committee members and other interested parties?

**Recommendations:** Clarify committee charge with more details of what is expected. Is this joint work with CoEs, or simply sharing CoE webinars with committee members and affiliates?

**Executive Committee Action:**
- Approval ☒
- Disapproval ☐
- Date 6/17/2019

**Charge 5:** Emerging issues that have been identified across Organizations or Agencies (identified through After Action Review data from RRT’s and other organizations)

**Discussion:** The committee had discussed focus on 2017-18 data from RRT AARs. This includes data collected prior to the develop of the RRT After Action Exchange, which will more easily pinpoint trends and reoccurring issues in AARs moving forward. However, identifying trends in historical RRT AAR data was also a planned project to be completed by FDA ORA leadership. Alida Sorenson has been in communication with Lauren Yeung (FDA ORA) about next steps; to avoid duplication of work, the committee has not taken any action on Charge 5.

**Recommendations:** The committee recommends coordinating with RRT leadership from FDA ORA on next steps for this charge.

**Executive Committee Action:**
- Approval ☒
- Disapproval ☐
- Date 6/17/2019

**Charge 6:** Creation of a training guide or catalogue of trainings (based on the crosswalk)

**Discussion:** A catalogue of trainings has been developed as an Excel document. The document is posted on the workgroup’s FoodSHIELD website and will also be shared with AFDO leadership. The committee is asking for AFDO guidance to make a determination on how the catalogue may be shared/stored and who will do the “upkeep”.

**Recommendations:** Storing the catalogue in a user-friendly format on the AFDO website is the current suggestion. Next year’s committee should continue development of the training catalogue to ensure it is up-to-date.

**Executive Committee Action:**
- Approval ☒
- Disapproval ☐
- Date 6/17/2019

**Charge 7:** Creation of a catalogue of tools based on the crosswalk.

**Discussion:** A catalogue of tools has been developed as an Excel document. The document is posted on the workgroup’s FoodSHIELD website and will also be shared with AFDO leadership. The committee is asking for AFDO guidance to make a determination on how the catalogue may be shared/stored and who will do the “upkeep”.

**Recommendations:** Storing the catalogue in a user-friendly format on the AFDO website is the current suggestion. Next year’s committee should continue development of the tools catalogue to ensure it is up-to-date.

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Charge 8: New taskforces as a part of the Future Funding Model (FFM) - How can we integrate our committee work in the new taskforce work.

Discussion: The committee has been in contact with taskforces to identify work they are doing in relation to foodborne illness and outbreak response. The AFDO Food Protection and Defense Committee kindly included our committee’s questions on a survey they sent out to all taskforces. The FOER Taskforce has requested tools or trainings that the taskforces have developed to include in our catalogue. Co-chair Karen Blickenstaff has also identified the taskforce portal as an efficient way to communicate with taskforce members in order to solicit information on projects the taskforces are working on – tools, trainings, etc.

Recommendations: The taskforce suggests continuing this charge in the 2019-2020 committee year.

Executive Committee Action:
Approval ☒ Disapproval ☐ Date 6/17/2019

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